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The background of the cover is a collage of historical documents and a photograph. At the top, there is a document with the word 'Lager' and some handwritten notes. Below it, on the left, is a document with the word 'busch' and some handwritten notes. On the right, there is a photograph of a group of people, likely Holocaust victims, standing in a line. The title 'HOLOCAUST' is written in large, white, serif capital letters, and 'THE DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE' is written in smaller, white, serif capital letters below it. The text is set against a dark red rectangular background.

HOLOCAUST

THE DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

National





HOLOCAUST

THE DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

Introduction by HENRY J. GWIAZDA II

Documents compiled, translated, and captioned
by ROBERT WOLFE for a poster exhibit in 1990

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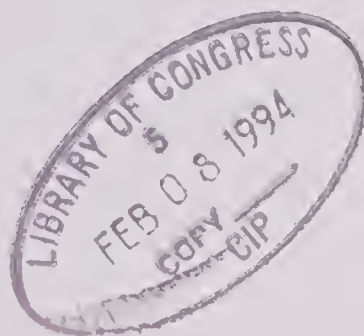
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INTRODUCTION

The other day I visited a German internment camp. I never dreamed that such cruelty, bestiality, and savagery could really exist in this world! It was horrible.

—*Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower to Mamie Eisenhower*
Reims, April 15, 1945

I made the visit [to a German internment camp near Gotha] deliberately, in order to be in position to give *first-hand* evidence of these things if ever, in the future, there develops a tendency to charge these allegations merely to “propaganda.”

—*Eisenhower to Gen. George C. Marshall*
April 15, 1945, “Secret”

When I found the first camp like that I think I never was so angry in my life. . . . I think people ought to know about such things. It explains something of my attitude toward the German war criminal. . . . I think the people at home ought to know what they are fighting for and the kind of person they are fighting.

—*Eisenhower to Pentagon Press Conference*
June 18, 1945

World War II is an event so massive in scale and so far-reaching in effect that we still live with its consequences and struggle to grasp its meaning. Nazi Germany called into question not only territorial boundaries and the world balance of power but also Western concepts of progress, democracy, and the definition of humanity itself.

War has always involved death, most obviously of military combatants, but the documents in this booklet reveal something very different: the heart of a campaign of planned genocide, the intentional destruction of deliberately selected groups of people.¹ The documents record decisions and policies that were part of a larger plan to create a new European social order based on race, a society that was being built by military force, mass resettlement, mass enslavement, and mass murder. Because this aspect of World War II raises profoundly troubling questions about human nature and modern society, it is important to understand these documents in their political and ideological context and in relation to the nature of the war and who died and why.

It is helpful to start with the numbers of deaths in the war because they reveal significant disparities among countries. The total number of deaths worldwide is estimated to be from 35 million to 60 million.

Examples of Estimated Deaths by Country of Origin in World War II

U.S.S.R.	7–8 million combatants, 2.5–3 million POWs, 5.2–5.8 million civilians
Poland	600,000 combatants, 5.4 million civilians
Yugoslavia	305,000 combatants, 1.2 million civilians
Germany	3.5 million combatants, 780,000 civilians
China	1.3 million Nationalist Forces, 13–22 million civilians
Japan	1.3 million combatants , 672,000 civilians
United Kingdom	264,000 combatants, 93,000 civilians
United States	292,000 combatants, 6,000 civilians ²

Because there were no major land battles on U.S. territory, it is understandable that American casualties were comparatively low, in spite of military service by over 16 million men and women. What prompts attention and calls for explanation is the comparison between Germany and Poland or Germany and the Soviet Union. Why, when all three were invaded, bombed, and fought over, were so many more civilians and prisoners of war killed in Poland and the U.S.S.R. than in Germany?

One explanation lies in the difference between the eastern and western fronts. The Nazis were in fact waging two wars simultaneously, one military, the other racial. To the Nazis, both wars were necessary for their ultimate aim—to develop a new world order. But the scale, scope, and intensity of these two wars differed on the eastern and western fronts because of the

different populations in the two areas. For example, while the Nazis killed 75,000 French Jews, implementation of their racial policies led to the death of up to 3 million Polish Jews and close to 3 million Polish Christians. To better understand this difference, we must first recognize the racial concepts and beliefs that were at the core of nazism.³

As an ideology, nazism drew on the mystical antimodernism of the German Volkish movement, various 19th-century anthropological ideas, and their more modern pseudoscientific reformulation in a “racial hygiene,” or eugenics, movement, which developed in Germany between the 1890s and 1920s. Influenced by these sources, the Nazis asserted a racial basis for *all* human worth and achievement. They believed that the Aryan, or Germanic, people were a variety of racial elements, among which the Nordic race was the superior, and that of the world’s peoples, the Aryans were preeminent and responsible for the developments that had created the dominating European civilization of the period.⁴

Echoing earlier racists, they claimed that over generations, Aryan “blood” was being adulterated through intermarriage with inferior races. “Blood” was a contemporary reference to racial heritage, and prior to the mid-20th century, people commonly believed that race determined a great range of human characteristics ranging from the soul, or *Kultur*, to intelligence and creativity. The Nazis, as did other extreme racists, held that such human differences applied to entire groups en masse and were immutable. Nazi racial theory consequently postulated that biological “degeneration” was inevitable from racial mixture, weakening the very foundation of Western civilization and threatening the disappearance of the “culture-creating” Aryans. The Nazis saw their mission as bringing the racial question to the forefront of national life and creating a world empire dominated by Nordic Germans.⁵

But who were the “inferior races”? Given the ethnic, linguistic, and historical complexity of the world, Nazi racial theorists were forced to engage in a pseudoscientific, and ultimately subjective, effort to identify and rank human groups into a racial hierarchy. Not surprisingly, Germanic people were ranked at the top. Though not fully equal to Germans, other western Europeans were seen as belonging to superior races and were ranked on the basis of their geographical and historical affinity to the Germans. Among westerners, northern Europeans were in general considered to be superior to southern Europeans. Substantially inferior to these groups, supposedly, were all peoples classified as Asiatic (Oriental), and lower still were those classified as African (Negro).

The Slavic peoples of eastern Europe (e.g., Poles, Russians, Ukrainians, Czechs, Slovaks, and Serbs) were seen as adulterated, mixed races, with a large infusion of Mongoloid “blood,” therefore neither fully European nor fully Asian. Gypsies and Jews were considered entirely separate, alien races; Jews were seen as an amalgam of Oriental and Negro “blood.” With these charac-



Adolph Hitler, Rudolph Hess, Viktor Lutze, and Heinrich Himmler attended the 1934 Reich Party Day in Nürnberg. Within a decade Nazi racism resulted in the death of 14 million–16 million “sub-human” Europeans.

terizations, Slavs, Gypsies, and Jews were held to be so inferior to Aryans as to be less than fully human. As a result, in the Nazi racial hierarchy, the Slavic people ranked below western Europeans, and the Gypsies, below Slavs. The Jews, defined as the most racially threatening group, were ranked on the lowest level. Hitler saw the Jews as a culture-destroying race, the diametric opposite of the Nordic race. Such definitions and beliefs led Nazi “scientists” to affirm that the Jews and other mixed races showed the biological weakness of race mixture. The Nazis claimed that mixed races were more susceptible to various diseases and had shorter lifespans because their “hybrid” biology caused various bodily organs to mature and degenerate at different rates. This finding was in contrast to the perceived synchronized physiology of groups who were defined as having a consistent racial heredity.⁶

Once in power in Germany, the Nazis began to act upon these racial ideas through two broad policies: They took steps to foster what they saw as positive eugenic selection for the German people by the elimination of genetically weak or defective Aryans, and they took various steps to protect Aryans from contamination by “inferior races,” ultimately resulting in policies of eugenic extermination of those so defined.

In the Hadamar Insane Asylum cemetery, up to 44 victims of Nazi racial "health" measures were buried in each grave. The sheer numbers suggest one reason why the Nazis developed the crematorium to dispose of their victims.



Beginning in 1933, the Nazis passed a series of laws aimed at depriving Jews and Gypsies of such rights as German citizenship and freedom to marry. The extent to which these measures were motivated by racial ideas is partly suggested by the fact that the German Jews were a small minority of about 500,000 in a nation of 67 million. Other laws designed to segregate and ultimately remove Jews and Gypsies from German civil, economic, and cultural life were enacted up to World War II (p. 22), when a new phase of the racial war began. To restrict Aryans seen as inferior, such as the physically and mentally disabled, the Reichstag passed the Law to Prevent Offspring with Hereditary Defects (1933) and the Law for Marriage Health (1935).⁷

In implementing these last two laws between 1934 and 1945, Nazi public health officials sterilized an estimated 360,000 individuals—mulatto, retarded, criminal, alcoholic, drug-addicted, and mentally ill Germans. Most of these sterilizations were for retardation, and over 25 percent for schizophrenia. More than 1 percent of the entire adult German population was sterilized. Nazi and other racial hygienists estimated that there might be as many as 500,000 to 1.2 million genetic defectives in Germany; other "experts" estimated that possibly as much as 20 percent of the German population was genetically defective. After 1937 the number of sterilizations for Germans began to fall because the target population in mental hospitals had been depleted, public resistance was growing, and preparation for more extreme measures was under way.⁸

By late 1939 the Nazis had developed a "euthanasia" program for killing and disposing of hereditarily blind, deaf, and deformed Germans as well as the mentally ill and retarded. From late 1939 through August 1941, over 70,000

patients from more than 100 German hospitals were killed. This inhumane attempt to alter the biological heredity of Germans was consistent with Nazi racial notions. It was officially suspended by Hitler in August 1941 because of public protest in Germany, but in fact, systematic mass murder of the handicapped continued secretly, and the killing of children never stopped. More victims of this program died after August 1941 than before, either through lethal injection or starvation. It was as part of this program at mental institutions that the gas chamber and crematorium were developed. The technology and personnel were later employed in the death camps (p. 26).⁹

Hitler and the Nazi leadership saw the war as an opportunity to expand and intensify the racial war as German armies conquered large numbers of Europeans defined as subhuman, the great majority of whom lived in eastern Europe. In the newly conquered lands, for those of imputed racial inferiority who were allowed to live for a time, the Nazis instituted a rigid segregation system as part of the "New Order." For example, after Nazi occupation of Poland and Ukraine, non-Germans were required to sit in the back of trolleys. Shops and restaurants in Kiev posted bold signs stating "**Ukrainians Not Admitted, Germans Only**"; in Poznan, offices and hotels posted "**Entrance is forbidden to Poles, Jews, and dogs.**" In the absence of skin color as a visual sign of racial status, Jews, inmates of concentration camps, and slave laborers were forced to wear a clearly visible identification emblem. For example, Jews were required to wear a yellow Star of David. The 1.5 million Polish and 2 million Ukrainian slave laborers in Germany were required to wear a square emblem with the inscription "OST," standing for *Ostarbeiter* (eastern laborer). The Nazi compulsion to create a social order based on race even went as far as insisting that inmates of Sachsenhausen concentration camp line up to reflect the racial hierarchy: northern Europeans first, then Frenchmen followed by Poles and Ukrainians, then Gypsies, and Jews last.¹⁰

The week before the invasion of Poland, Hitler had met with his commanding generals and made both his racial and military war aims clear. He said:

I have given the order and will have every one shot, who utters even one word of criticism that the aim of the war is not to attain certain lines, but consists in the physical destruction of the opponent. Thus for the time being I have sent to the East only my "Death's Head Units" with the order to kill without mercy all men, women, and children of Polish race or language. Only in such a way will we win the vital space that we need. Who still talks nowadays of the extermination of the Armenians? . . . Poland will be depopulated and colonized with Germans. . . . in Russia will happen just what I have practiced with Poland.¹¹

This statement underscores the direct and fatal connection between Nazi racial beliefs and the idea of *Lebensraum* (living space for a nation). In 1924

in *Mein Kampf*, Hitler had stated that his ultimate aim was the establishment of a new German empire, the Third Reich, which he envisioned as a contiguous, land-based state including all 80 million Germans and reaching from the Atlantic to the Urals.

The loss of Germany's overseas colonies in World War I influenced Hitler's view that German needs dictated expansion to the east. But more fundamentally the idea expressed an old belief common in Western thought: that to prosper and grow, a nation had to acquire more land and resources. Historically, many nations had sought to expand through conquest or colonization to provide for their growing populations. But with the advent of industrialization and increasing commerce, rural agricultural life as the norm was progressively superseded in the urbanizing West, particularly in the 20th century. This trend was strongly opposed by the Nazis, who warmly embraced both the German peasant and rural ideal. In the face of a large population, highly developed industrialization, and increasing urbanization, the Nazi Party wanted to provide more Germans with the opportunity for farming. In one plan, for example, they aimed to resettle 8 million Germans in the east over a 30-year period. Rather than advocate limitation of population, redistribution of land within Germany, expansion of foreign trade, or domestic reform to make the new urban and industrial lifestyles more acceptable, the Nazis chose an aggressive imperialism as their program. Their racism and planned aggrandizement in the east permitted them to avoid difficult political decisions at home. Racism and Hitler's negative views on the multiethnic Austro-Hungarian empire led the Nazis to violently reject the possibility of coexistence with or assimilation of non-Aryans.¹²

Hitler rejected the possibility of transplanting Germanic colonists north, south, or west because these areas were densely populated by racially acceptable Europeans and the land in Scandinavia was too mountainous. Only eastward expansion into the vast agricultural plain that begins in central Poland and stretches through fertile Ukraine into European Russia would provide acceptable Nazi *Lebensraum*.¹³

The main obstacle to this expansion was that the lands to the east were as heavily settled as those in western Europe. Central and eastern Europe was the home of over 200 million Slavs, a majority of Europe's Gypsies, and 75 percent of Europe's 8.5 million Jews. The fate of eastern Europe's inhabitants involved neither moral nor legal considerations because Nazi racial classification placed most of these people in subhuman alien outgroups (*Untermenschen*), which did not receive the same consideration as Aryans. In fact these groups' numbers, fertility, and supposed racial inferiority were seen as a direct threat to Aryans. The Nazis saw survival of nations or races as a brutal social Darwinian struggle in which only "the fittest" survived or had a right to survive. Under the leadership of Heinrich Himmler, the *Schutzstaffel* (the SS) acquired responsibility for racial policies, resettlement, and coloniza-



These members of a labor service camp near Darmstadt worked on 65 farms in the community and embodied the Nazis' idealized vision of rural agricultural life.

tion of the east and pursued its mission with ruthless consequences (pp. 27–29, 32–34, 36–37).

To the Nazis the problem was purely practical: how to dominate nearly 210 million people and ultimately displace them from their land, homes, and possessions for the benefit of Germans. Four strategies were developed for this phase of the racial war: 1) mass extermination, 2) mass expropriation and resettlement, 3) identification of good Aryan “blood” for “regermanization,” and 4) mass slavery.

The policy of mass extermination operated through both direct and indirect means. Deporting Jews and others to death camps like Birkenau (pp. 27 and 35) or sending SS mobile units to shoot or gas their victims (pp. 28 and 37) are the most well known elements of this strategy. Using people for experiments resulting in death (p. 33) derived from the same general ideas and objectives. Up to 2.7 million Jews died in the 6 Nazi death camps and over 1.3 million from open-air shootings. About a million Slavs also died in the death camps.

Captured during the campaign of 1941, hundreds of thousands of Soviet prisoners of war were collected in camps and were left to freeze and starve to death in the open during the bitter winter that followed.



Extermination through indirect means is not as well known. The most widespread indirect means was deliberate and planned starvation. This policy was applied to Jews, Soviet prisoners of war, and the urban populations in Poland and Ukraine. In the General Government, a German colony remaining after the annexation of western Poland, the official food ration in Warsaw in 1941 was over 2,600 calories for a German, 699 for a Pole, and 184 for a Jew. In the summer of 1941 the daily ration given to Russian POWs was "one ounce of millet and three ounces of bread, no meat" or "three ounces of millet, no bread," one-quarter of the food necessary for survival. During that year Hermann Göring told the Italian Foreign Minister, "In the camp for Russian prisoners they have begun to eat each other. . . . This year between twenty and thirty million persons will die of hunger in Russia. Perhaps it is well that it should be so, for certain nations must be decimated." The Nazis also deliberately withheld medical services and vaccinations in occupied Polish and Soviet territory. And in their horrifying experimental medical program, they sought to develop an inexpensive and quick method of sterilizing Russians, Poles, Gypsies, and Jews: at Auschwitz, sterilizing thousands of Jewish and Gypsy women by uterine injections, and at Ravensbruck, sterilizing young Polish women with surgery, x rays, and uterine chemotherapy.¹⁴

A second strategy of the racial war, mass expropriation and resettlement, involved driving a large percentage of the undesirable populations eastward before an advancing line of Aryan colonists, who simply took over the empty homes, farms, and businesses. For example, by 1943 in western Poland, over 700,000 farms totaling 21 million acres had been seized and given to German settlers. About 1.5 million Polish citizens (including 300,000 Polish Jews) were simply expelled from this area when it was annexed to Germany, forced into unheated cattle cars without food or water, and deported east to the General Government. Nazi racial planners considered one to one the ideal ratio for

Germans and non-Aryans in a colonization area. Thus some of the original inhabitants were kept behind as slave labor for the new masters; other “aliens” were to be killed or deported. Documents introduced during the Nürnberg trials recorded the SS’s postwar plans to “resettle” some 50 million remaining Slavs to western Siberia: 85 percent of Poles, 75 percent of Belorussians, 65 percent of Ukrainians, and 50 percent of Czechs.¹⁵

In various 1943 speeches, Heinrich Himmler declared that colonization would be the work of the future for the SS. He predicted that German farmers and the SS would move the frontier over 300 miles east every 20 years, continually fighting the remnants of “the Russian enemy, this people numbering two hundred million Russians, [who must] be destroyed on the battlefield and person by person.” Following the extermination of 3.8 million Jews in 1941 and 1942, Himmler may have been anticipating completion of the Nazis’ final solution to the Jewish question and considering other present and future enemies. In any case, in 1943 he had also begun to speak of the task for future generations, which he foresaw as a whole new phase of the racial war—“battles of destiny against Asia.”¹⁶ It is chilling to consider that if the Nazis had not been defeated, and if Himmler’s rates were accurate, the “genetic cleansing” associated with Nazi colonization and the drive to the east would still be continuing today.

Such views on annihilation of subhumans represented one conclusion drawn from Nazi racial assumptions. The policy of regermanization represented a seemingly contradictory conclusion from the same assumptions. It was implemented by units of the SS that searched the conquered populations for any trace of Aryan “blood” that might exist either in descendants of any Germans who had settled in the east since Roman times or that might be worth saving among the Slavs. Himmler publicly stated that “For us the end of this war will mean an open road to the East, the creation of the Germanic Reich, . . . the fetching home of 30 million human beings of our blood, so that still during our lifetime we shall be a people of 120 million Germanic souls. This means that we shall be the sole decisive power in Europe.”¹⁷

Nazi pseudoscientific race surveys were largely based on observation of external appearance by an examiner who might have had 6 weeks’ “training.” Admitting that Slavs had originally derived from the same Indo-European races as the Germans, Nazi racial theorists argued that invasions from Asia (e.g., Genghis Khan, Attila the Hun, the Ottoman Turks) had contaminated Slavic biology. Such speculation led to two contradictory approaches to conquered Slavs. On one hand, Nazis feared the larger Slavic population, its birth rate, and its potential for resistance, the latter supposedly derived from residual Nordic “blood.” These beliefs led to policies of terror, extermination, enslavement, and expulsion for “inferior” non-Aryans in eastern Europe—a target population of about 180 million Jews, Gypsies, and Slavs.

On the other hand, Nazis like Himmler were very conscious of the limited

Gaunt, starved, and only half-alive, these three prisoners, two of whom still wear their identifying striped prison garb, bear evidence to the horror of life in the Dachau concentration camp.



population of the Germanic races compared to their present and future enemies. Himmler's concern was that when the inevitable battle against Asia broke out and "the mass of humanity of 1 to 1.5 billion lines up against us, the Germanic people, numbering, I hope, 250 to 300 million, and the other European peoples, making a total of 600–700 million—(and with an outpost area stretching as far as the Urals, or [in] a hundred years, beyond the Urals)—must stand the test in its vital struggle against Asia." Consequently, the SS developed policies to promote an increase in the fertility of Aryans and to "regermanize" eastern Germans and Slavs whom they determined had enough Aryan "blood" to save for the Reich. For "regermanization" the SS preferred women between the ages of 16 and 20 and children between 6 and 10 (simply taken from their parents).¹⁸

The fourth strategy for the remaking of Europe was to enslave those considered racially inferior but useful for their labor. In *Mein Kampf* Hitler had asserted that the Aryans had enslaved "lower human types" even before taming animals and that in the absence of machines and technology, slavery had made the higher culture of (Aryan) humanity possible.¹⁹ Once the war began, the Nazis instituted a brutal exploitation of captive populations for their labor. By the end of the war, 7.5 million slave laborers were at work in Germany, about a fourth of the total German labor force, and thousands of others worked in hundreds of labor, concentration, and death camps throughout Nazi-controlled territory. Major German firms such as I. G. Farben established factories near concentration camps like Auschwitz (p. 35) to employ slave labor. In these camps the death rate was notably high (p. 30) because the food rations and working conditions were deliberately calculated to bring death in 3 to 6 months; as a matter of racial policy these lives were seen as valueless and expendable. Such conditions reflected a policy the Nazis implemented early in the war, "extermination through labor."²⁰

After December 1941, with the increasing prospect of a long war, elements within the Nazi leadership began to think of an expanded war economy run by slave labor to produce everything from bricks to armaments. The conflict between those Nazis who viewed slave labor as unwanted life and those who considered it a valuable economic resource was never resolved. For example, in Mauthausen, with an average prison population of over 21,000 in 1943, 40 percent of the camp inmates died due to inadequate food, clothing, and equipment. Even though efforts were made to reduce the rate of death in such forced labor camps by simple "reforms" like allowing inmates to wear coats in winter, the death rates of working prisoners began to climb in 1944 and skyrocketed in 1945. Often when the Allies' advance came too close to various labor camps, the guards simply killed the prisoners; for example, at Landsberg Camp 4, guards locked Jewish prisoners in their barracks and burned the buildings to the ground, leaving only naked charred human remains, frozen in surreal shapes of death.²¹



Relieved to be free, these prisoners at Mauthausen, a slave labor camp in Nazi-occupied Austria, survived death rates of 40 percent a year, the result of deliberately inadequate food, clothing, and shelter.

How the strategies of the racial war affected different groups depended significantly on where a group stood in the racial hierarchy; thereafter, its size, the course of the military war, and conflicting ideas among the Nazis influenced implementation of racial policies. The Nazis' most extreme action, the decision to implement a final solution to a racial problem, was first applied to those at the extremes of the racial hierarchy. The first people targeted for immediate extermination were the "valueless lives" among the Aryans. Hitler and his Chancellery gave the order in 1939 to exterminate the mentally ill and handicapped (p. 26).

At the other end of the hierarchy, Nazi ideology defined the Jews as the most racially threatening group. According to Nazi propaganda and belief, Jews were the main cause and symbol of most, if not all, of what was wrong with the contemporary world. The ills of both capitalism and communism were attributed to the perceived Jewish threat. Consequently, with the invasion of Poland, home to over one-third of Europe's Jews, the Nazis proceeded to implement policies aimed at the complete extermination of European Jews (pp. 24 and 29). The Nazis' commitment to this aspect of the racial war was so obsessive that at times it overrode military necessities. For example, the Nazis diverted trains desperately needed to supply troops in order to transport Jews to the death camps.²²

While Hitler bears overall responsibility, different senior Nazi officials implemented the decisions to exterminate various groups at different times. Himmler was responsible for the early killings of Jews; then, under Hermann Göring's authorization, Reinhard Heydrich played a major role from the invasion of Russia in 1941 through the Wannsee conference in 1942 (p. 29) until his death later that year. By the end of 1942, the evidence suggests that Himmler made the decision to implement a final solution for the Gypsies, ordering them to be delivered to Auschwitz.²³

Nazi treatment of Soviet POWs demonstrates that the decision to commit people to immediate extermination or to slave labor could depend on such a factor as the course of the fighting (p. 31). In the fall of 1941, following a series of major German victories, large shipments of Soviet POWs were sent to Auschwitz (p. 35) and other camps to be worked to death or exterminated. During the bitter winter of 1941–42, hundreds of thousands of Soviet POWs held in Ukraine and Belorussia were deliberately starved to death without shelter. But by 1942–43, the Nazis had failed to take Moscow, had been forced to withdraw from the Caucasus, and had lost an army at Stalingrad. The advancing Soviet armies had retaken Rostov, Kharkov, and Smolensk. With the decreasing prospect of victory, even Himmler regretted the earlier loss of potential POW labor and explicitly directed his SS generals to send Soviet POWs to slave labor rather than to immediate extermination.²⁴

The sheer numbers of the Slavic peoples, in contrast to European Jewish and Gypsy populations and the Germans themselves, also necessitated different applications of Nazi strategies in the racial war. The first Slavs the Nazis designated for immediate and direct extermination were those who could provide leadership for resistance to Nazi rule: priests, public officials, political leaders, professors, teachers, lawyers, worker and peasant leaders, members of the Communist Party, merchants, army officers, and soldiers (p. 31). Consequently, the *Einsatzgruppen*, the SS death squads operating behind the front lines in captured territory, focused on shooting or gassing these *specific categories* among Slavs while seeking out *all* Jews for direct extermination (p. 32).²⁵ Conversely, the indirect policies of extermination—such as planned starvation or withholding of vaccinations—were policies designed to kill large numbers indiscriminately.

The officially sanctioned and deliberately planned Nazi extermination of civilians and prisoners of war resulted in a staggering loss of life (p. 36). Estimated deaths are 5 million to 6 million Jews, 250,000 to 500,000 Gypsies, and 9 million to 10 million Slavs. Not surprisingly, the estimated deaths inversely reflect the rankings of the Nazi racial hierarchy: the lower on the hierarchy, the higher the percentage of dead. These numbers represent about 65 to 70 percent of European Jewry, over 30 percent of European Gypsies, and 11 to 15 percent of Polish, Belorussian, and Ukrainian civilians and prisoners of war.

About half of the Jews killed died in death camps like Auschwitz-Birkenau,



Slave laborers produced V-bombs at the Nordhausen camp. On the approach of the Allied armies, guards at many such camps killed the inmates. The U.S. First Army liberated Nordhausen in April 1945 and ordered German citizens to bury the dead.

Belzec, and Treblinka (pp. 27 and 35). More than 1.3 million died in open-air shootings, and hundreds of thousands perished from deliberate privation such as starvation. At least 1 million Slavs are estimated to have died in the death camps, but most of the 9 million to 10 million killed were shot or hanged in thousands of mass and individual executions or were deliberately starved or worked to death (pp. 30 and 31). The total deaths in the Nazis' *racial* war are estimated at 14 million to 16 million, or possibly 1 in 2 deaths of the 30 million Europeans estimated to have died during World War II.²⁶

In 1978, following the broadcast of the television miniseries *Holocaust*, the National Archives prepared an exhibition entitled "Holocaust: The Documentary Evidence." Robert Wolfe, currently Assistant Director, Center for Captured German and Related Records, selected the items in the exhibit from the captured German records and the World War II war crimes records in the Archives. In 1990 he revised this material for a poster series of the same title. In commemoration of the anniversary of U.S. participation in World War II, the National Archives Office of Public Programs is making the material available as a booklet.

The following documents concentrate on the Jewish victims of the racial war as a case study of the most extensive genocidal victimization from Nazi racial policies. Inevitably the materials also include reference to other Nazi victims. The tragedy of the Holocaust provides a searing insight into the "New Order" the Nazis might have built had the war turned out differently. Himmler tells us that what happened was just the beginning. This introduction has sought to outline the fundamental role racism played in this tragedy and to place the selected documents in their immediate historical and ideological context. The reader is encouraged to study the illustrations and documents that follow as striking evidence of the aims and policies of a Nazi totalitarian dictatorship that actively sought to remake humanity in its own image.

1. With World War II in mind, the United Nations Genocide Convention (1951) outlaws all acts carried out with "a specific intent to destroy, in whole or in substantial part, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group."
2. *Encyclopedia Britannica* (Macropedia), 15th ed., s.v. "International Relations. World War II: Cost of the War"; *The Historical Encyclopedia of World War II* (1989), s.v. "Prisoners of War."
3. Raul Hilberg, *The Destruction of European Jews*, rev. ed. (1985), p. 1220.
4. George L. Mosse, *The Crisis of German Ideology: Intellectual Origins of the Third Reich* (1964); Robert Proctor, *Racial Hygiene: Medicine under the Nazis* (1988); George W. Stocking, Jr., *Race, Culture, and Evolution: Essays in the History of Anthropology* (1968).
5. Adolf Hitler, *Mein Kampf*, trans. Ralph Manheim (1943), pp. 214, 248–249, 285–296, 300, 327–328, 389–390, 654–655; Paul Weindling, *Health, Race and German Politics Between National Unification and Nazism, 1870–1945* (1989), pp. 490–492, 531.
6. Proctor, *Racial Hygiene*, pp. 114, 197; Joseph Tenenbaum, *Race and Reich: The Story of an Epoch* (1956), pp. xiii–xv; Mosse, *Crisis of German Ideology*, pp. 88–107; Bohdan Wytwycky, *The Other Holocaust: Many Circles of Hell* (1980), pp. 25–29.
7. Examples of Nazi legislation that included anti-Jewish measures are the Law for the Restitution of the Professional Civil Service (April 1933), the Law for the Revocation of German Citizenship (July 1933), and the Reich Citizenship Law (September 1935), augmented by the Law for the Protection of German Blood and Honor (1935). Examples of laws used against the Gypsies are the Denaturalization Law (July 1933), applied to foreign and stateless Gypsies inside Germany; the Law for Prevention of Offspring with Hereditary Defects (1933) and the Laws Against Crime (1937), both of which included Gypsies under the racial category of "asocials"; and a law entitled "Fight against the Gypsy Menace" (1938). From 1933 a national police commission decided to require mandatory registration and fingerprinting of all Gypsies older than 6. The Law for Prevention of Offspring with Hereditary Defects was specifically directed against the physically handicapped and mentally ill, and its effect was strengthened by the Law for Marriage Health (October 1935). Memorandum from Dr. Sybil Milton, United States Holocaust Council, February 1992, in possession of author; Wytwycky, *The Other Holocaust*, pp. 30–31.
8. Proctor, *Racial Hygiene*, pp. 95–117, 207–208; Weindling, *Health, Race and German Politics*, p. 533.
9. Milton memorandum; Robert Jay Lifton, "Sterilization and Euthanasia," in *A Mosaic of Victims: Non-Jews Persecuted and Murdered by the Nazis*, ed. Michael Berenbaum (1990), pp. 222–228; Proctor, *Racial Hygiene*, pp. 177–222; Weindling, *Health, Race and German Politics*, pp. 186–187.
10. Donald Kenrick and Grattan Puxon, *The Density of Europe's Gypsies* (1972), pp. 174–175; Proctor, *Racial Hygiene*, pp. 181–182; Wytwycky, *The Other Holocaust*, pp. 28, 44–45, 81, 91–92.
11. Office of the U.S. Chief Counsel for the Prosecution of Axis Criminality, *Nazi Conspiracy and Aggression* (1946), 7: 752–754 (translation of Document L-3).
12. Hitler, *Mein Kampf*, pp. 131–156.
13. Hitler, *Mein Kampf*, pp. 641–667. Ukraine is approximately 200,000 square miles of some of the richest land in Europe.
14. Alan Bullock, *Hitler: A Study in Tyranny*, rev. ed. (1961), pp. 578–579, 593–594; Konnilyn Feig, "Non-Jewish Victims in the Concentration Camps," in *A Mosaic of Victims*, p. 173; Göring statement as recorded in Count Ciano's diary, cited in William L. Shirer, *The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich: A History of Nazi Germany* (1960), p. 854n; Ihor Kamenetsky, *Secret Nazi Plans for Eastern Europe: A Study of Lebensraum Policies* (1961), pp. 141–150; Christian Streit, "The Fate of the Soviet Prisoners of War," in *A Mosaic of Victims*, pp. 142–149. Kamenetsky has made extensive use of the documents from the Nürnberg hearings.
15. Kamenetsky, *Secret Nazi Plans*, pp. 41, 52–81, 175–176, 234 n. 145 on Document NG-2325; R. L. Koehl, *RKFDV: German Resettlement and Population Policy* (1957); Shirer, *Third Reich*, p. 944; Wytwycky, *The Other Holocaust*, pp. 40, 44. Whether or not "resettling" was a Nazi euphemism like "transporting Jews to the East," the percentage objectives indicate general Nazi aims.
16. Office of U.S. Chief Counsel, *Nazi Conspiracy and Aggression*, 4: 570–572; quotation from April 1943 speech at Kharkov, Ukraine, 4: 573–574.

See also pp. 577–578, where Russia is viewed as racially Asiatic: “We know that this conflict with the advancing pressure from Asia, with 200 million Russians, is necessary.”

17. Office of U.S. Chief Counsel, *Nazi Conspiracy and Aggression*, 1: 1030–1031.

18. Kamenetsky, *Secret Nazi Plans*, pp. 21, 55, 62–65, 88–101; *Trials of War Criminals Before the Nuremberg Military Tribunals Under Council Law No. 10* (1949), 4: 989–1053. Because there had been a fifth-century Gothic settlement in Ukraine, Hitler was willing to accept certain Ukrainian women between the ages of 15 and 35 as candidates for regermanization. Out of a potential 10.7 million prospects for regermanization in the provinces annexed in western Poland, of the 6 million Poles remaining after previous expulsions, only 3 percent were found qualified in June 1942. Cf. Heinrich Himmler, *Untermensch* (1942).

19. Hitler, *Mein Kampf*, pp. 294–295.

20. Peter Black, “Forced Labor in the Concentration Camps, 1942–1944,” and Edward Homze, “Nazi Germany’s Forced Labor Program,” in *A Mosaic of Victims*, pp. 37–63; Office of U.S. Chief Counsel, *Nazi Conspiracy and Aggression*, 6: 1111–1115 (Documents D-272, D-274, and D-277); Wytwycky, *The Other Holocaust*, pp. 49, 76–81.

21. Black, “Forced Labor,” in *A Mosaic of Victims*, pp. 46–51, 56–57. For examples of photographs documenting the murder of camp inmates before liberation by advancing Allied troops, see Records of the Office of the Chief Signal Officer, Record Group 111 (111-SC-203356-S, 111-SC-231802,

and 111-SC-266485) and Records of the Office of War Information, Record Group 208 (208-YE-1B-9), National Archives, Washington, DC (hereinafter, records of the National Archives will be cited as RG ___, NA).

22. Hitler, *Mein Kampf*, passim; Mosse, *Crisis of German Ideology*, pp. 126–145, 294–311; Wytwycky, *The Other Holocaust*, pp. 19. Cf. C. Vann Woodward, *Tom Watson: Agrarian Rebel* (1969), pp. 431–450.

23. Milton memorandum; Wytwycky, *The Other Holocaust*, p. 33.

24. Bullock, *Hitler* (1961), pp. 621–633; Office of U.S. Chief Counsel, *Nazi Conspiracy and Aggression*, 4: 558; Wytwycky, *The Other Holocaust*, pp. 71–76.

25. See Reinhard Heydrich’s order of July 17, 1941: Regulations for the Commandos of the Security Police and Service to be detailed to Stalags, National Archives Collection of Foreign Records Seized, RG 242, NA; Kamenetsky, *Secret Nazi Plans*, pp. 163–165 (I.M.T. Document No-3155).

26. Hilberg, *Destruction of European Jews*, pp. 1219–1220; Wytwycky, *The Other Holocaust*, pp. 19, 28, 45, 81, 91–92. The release of the former Soviet Union’s archives may change these estimates considerably. Gen. Dmitri A. Volkogonov, who is responsible for opening these documents for research, stated at the National Archives of the United States on June 15, 1992, that he has records showing 27 million Soviet people perished during World War II. See *Prologue, Quarterly of the National Archives*, 24 (Winter 1992): 357.

FACSIMILES

During the 12 years of the Third Reich — between Nazi assumption of power in Germany on January 30, 1933, and unconditional surrender on V-E Day, May 8, 1945 — the Jews of Germany and Nazi-occupied Europe were subjected to discrimination, loss of citizenship, loss of property, exile, and near extermination. The genocidal plan, Hitler's "final solution of the Jewish question," was classified ultrasecret. Assembling and transporting Jews from all corners of Europe to the extermination sites in occupied Poland, however, was a complex operation and generated much coordinating paperwork among the SS and other Nazi agencies. A large number of these records were captured by the Allies and used as evidence in war crimes trials held since 1945 at Nürnberg and elsewhere. The National Archives and Records Administration has preserved for posterity this authentic, contemporary documentation of the Holocaust.

On November 9, 1938, Nazi-instigated and -condoned anti-Semitic violence broke out throughout Germany. On November 11, Reinhard Heydrich, Chief of Security Police, reported to Hermann Göring:

In numerous cities looting of Jewish shops and businesses has occurred. . . . The reported figures: 815 shops destroyed, 29 department stores set afire or otherwise destroyed, 171 dwellings set on fire or destroyed, give . . . only part of the real destruction. . . . [and] may exceed that many times over. Of synagogues, 191 were set afire, a further 76 were fully demolished. Further, 11 community centers, cemetery chapels and such were set afire and 3 others fully destroyed. Arrested were around 20,000 Jews, further 7 Aryans and 3 foreigners. . . . reported were 36 deaths, as well as 36 critically injured. The dead and/or injured are Jews.

Because of the enormous amount of broken window glass in the streets, the public dubbed this pogrom *Reichkristallnacht* (**Reich crystal night**).

4 - 71

Bitte in der Antwort vorstehendes Geschäftszeichen und Datum anzugeben

Berlin SW 11, den 1933.
Prinz-Albrecht-Straße 8
Fernsprecher: A 2 flora 0040

Grim

Schnellbrief

8439
88

[illegible]

Abstract

✓ 6. 11

2.

A 19 1

21

Geheim

Der Chef der Sicherheitspolizei
(Sicherheitspolizei)

Berlin, den 21. Sept. 1939

3363-PS

Geheim

Die hiermit beiliegende, von der Sicherheitspolizei
entnommene Judenfrage im besetzten Gebiet.

Ich nehme Bezug auf die heute in Berlin stattgefundene Besprechung
und weise noch einmal darauf hin, dass die geplanten Massnahmen
(das Endziel) streng geheim zu halten sind.
Es ist zu unterscheiden zwischen:

- 1.) dem Endziel (welches längere Fristen beansprucht)
und
- 2.) den dazwischen liegenden Phasen dieses Endziels,
(welche kurzfristig durchgeführt werden.)

Die geplanten Massnahmen erfordern gründlichste Vorbereitung
sowohl in technischer, als auch in wirtschaftlicher Hinsicht.

Es ist selbstverständlich, dass die Vorarbeiten aufbauen von hier
in allen Einzelheiten nicht festgestellt werden können. Die nachstehenden
Anweisungen und Richtlinien dienen, gleichzeitig dem Zwecke, die Chiefs
der Einsatzgruppen zu praktischen Überlegungen anzuleiten.

1. Das erste Vorhaben zur Erreichung des Endziels ist zunächst die Konzentrierung der Juden vom Lande in die Grossstädte etc.

Die ist mit Beschleunigung durchzuführen.

Es ist dabei zu unterscheiden:

1. zwischen dem Gebieten Preussen, Ostpreussen, Posen, Lubliner Gebiet und
2. den übrigen besetzten Gebieten.

Nach Möglichkeit soll das unter Ziffer 1. genannte Gebiet von Juden freigemacht werden, aus mindestens aber 20% entfernt werden, nur wenige Konzentrierungspunkte zu bilden.

In den unter Ziffer 2. genannten Gebieten sind möglichst wenige Konzentrierungspunkte festzulegen, sodass sie später leicht zu erreichen
leichter werden. Dabei ist zu beachten, dass nur solche Städte als Konzentrierungspunkte bestimmt werden, die entweder Eisenbahnknotenpunkte
sind oder zu mindestens an Eisenbahnen angeschlossen liegen.

Es gilt grundsätzlich, dass jüdische Gemeinden mit unter 500 Köpfen
aufzulösen und der Konzentrierungspunkt zuzuführen sind.

Dieser Erlass gilt nicht für das Gebiet der Einsatzgruppe 1, welches
etwa, östlich von Krakau liegend, begrenzt wird von der polnischen Grenze,
der neuen Demarkationslinie und der bayerischen Grenze. Innerhalb dieses Gebietes ist lediglich eine betriebsmäßige
Judenkonzentration vorzunehmen. Der unter 2. genannte Teil ist ebenfalls zu
den jüdischen Konzentrationen zuzuführen.

Subject: Jewish Question in Occupied Territory. . . planned measures to be held **strictly secret**. It is to be differentiated between . . . the Endziel (end goal) . . . and the phases of [its] fulfillment . . . (which will be carried out shortly) . . . [the] first precondition . . . is . . . concentration of Jews from the countryside into the larger cities . . . In every Jewish community, a Jewish Council of Elders will be established . . . [which] is . . . to be made **fully answerable** for the exact and punctual performance of all orders already issued or to be issued.

- II.
- Jüdische Ältestenräte
- 1.) In jeder jüdischen Gemeinde ist ein jüdischer Ältestenrat aufzustellen, der, soweit möglich, aus den zurückgebliebenen massgebenden Persönlichkeiten und Rabbinern zu bilden ist. Dem Ältestenrat liegen die zu 24 männliche Juden (je nach Grösse der jüdischen Gemeinde) anzugeteilt.
 - 2.) Er ist im Sinne der Orte voll verantwortlich zu machen für die exakte und termingemässe Durchführung aller erlassenen oder noch ergehenden Verfügungen.
 - 3.) Im Falle der Abzüge solcher Leistungen sind den Ältesten die schärfsten Massnahmen anzukündigen.
 - 4.) Die Ältestenräte haben eine behelfsmässige Zulassung der Juden - mögliche gegliedert nach Geschlecht (Alterklassen) a) bis 16 Jahren, b) von 16 bis 20 Jahren und c) darüber, und nach den hauptsächlichen Berufsrichtungen - in ihren örtlichen Bereichen vorzunehmen und das Ergebnis in Kürze der Frist zu melden.
 - 5.) Den Ältestenräten sind Termine und Fristen des Abzuges, die Abzugsmöglichkeiten und schliesslich die Abzugsstrassen bekanntzugeben. Sie sind sodann persönlich verantwortlich zu machen für den Abzug der Juden vom Lande.
 - 6.) Die Begründung für die Konzentrierung der Juden in die Städte hat zu gelten, dass sich Juden massgeblich an den Plünderungen der Juden und Plünderungsaktionen beteiligt haben.
 - 7.) Die Ältestenräte sind für die Konzentrierung der Juden in die Städte zu machen für die geeigneten Unterbringung der aus dem Lande zurückkehrenden Juden.
 - 8.) Die Konzentrierung der Juden in den Städten wird wahrscheinlich aus allgemeinen Sicherheitspolizeilichen Gründen Anordnungen in diesen Städten bedingen, dass die stete jedoch unter Berücksichtigung der wirtschaftlichen Notwendigkeiten - z.B. das Ghetto nicht verlassen, zu einer bestimmten Abwesenheit nicht mehr ausgehen dürfen usw.
 - 9.) Die Ältestenräte sind auch verantwortlich zu machen für die entsprechende Verpflegung der Juden auf dem Transport in die Städte. Es sind keine Bedenken geltend zu machen, wenn die Abwandernden Juden ihr bewegliches Gut, soweit technisch überhaupt möglich, mitnehmen.
 - 10.) Juden, welche den Befehl, in die Städte umzusiedeln, nicht nachkommen, sind in begründeten Fällen eine kurz bemessene Nachfrist zu gewähren. Es ist ihnen strengste Bestrafung anzukündigen, wenn sie auch dieser Frist nicht nachkommen sollten.
- III.
- Alle erforderlichen Massnahmen sind grundsätzlich stets im engersten Rahmen und Zusammenwirken mit den zivilen Verwaltungs- und Militärbehörden zu treffen.
- Bei der Durchführung ist zu berücksichtigen, dass die wirtschaftliche Sicherung der besetzten Gebiete keinen Schaden leiden soll.
- Es ist vor allem Rücksicht zu nehmen auf die Bedürfnisse des Heeres. z.B. wird es sich kaum vermeiden lassen, zunächst die dort Handelnden zurückzulassen, welche zur Verpflegung der Truppen benötigt werden. In diesen Fällen ist jedoch im Benehmen mit der örtlichen zuständigen deutschen Verwaltungsbehörden die raschste Ausrüstung dieser Betriebe anzustreben und die Auswanderung der Juden nachzuholen.

Transcribed telegram, Reinhard Heydrich to chiefs of all operation commands of the Security Police, September 21, 1939. Carbon copy. RG 238, Nürnberg Document 3363 PS.

Nürnberg Nazi Party rally,
September 4–10, 1934.



RG 242, National Archives Collection of Foreign Records
Seized, 1941– , HB 8199a 315.
■ Adolf Hitler, Heinrich Himmler, Rudolph Hess, and
Reinhard Heydrich (directly behind Hess).



1. Sept. 1939.

Reichsleiter B o u h l e r und
Dr. med. B r a n d t

sind unter Verantwortung beauftragt, die Befugnisse namentlich zu bestimmender Ärzte so zu erweitern, dass nach menschlichem Ermessen unheilbar Kranken bei kritischster Beurteilung ihres Krankheitszustandes der Gnadentod bewahrt werden kann.

*Dem Reichsleiter mit
Übergabe am 27.8.40
Dr. Gürtner*

INTERNATIONAL
HUMANITARIAN
1. Exhibit 342
Filed 10/1/40

Der Bischof von Limburg

Limburg/Lahn, den 13. August 1941.

dem Herrn Reichsminister der Justiz

Reichsjustizministerium

10 AUG 1941

Berlin.

Bezugnehmend auf die von dem Vorsitzenden der Fuldaer Bischofskonferenz, Herrn Kardinal Dr. Bertold, eingereichte Denkschrift vom 16. Juli (sub IV. Seite 6/7) halte ich mich verpflichtet, betr. Vernichtung sogenannten "lebensunwerten Lebens" das Folgende als konkrete Illustration zu unterbreiten.

Etwa 8 km von Limburg entfernt ist in dem Städtchen Hadamar auf einer Anhöhe unmittelbar über dem Städtchen eine Anstalt, die früher verschiedenen Zwecken, zuletzt als Heil- und Pflege-Anstalt gedient hat, umgebaut bzw. eingerichtet worden als eine Stätte, in der nach allgemeiner Ueberzeugung obengenannte Euthanasie seit Monaten - etwa seit Februar 1941 - planmäßig vollzogen wird. Ueber den Regierungsbezirk Wiesbaden hinaus wird die Tatsache bekannt, weil Sterbeurkunden von einem Standesamt Hadamar-Mönchberg in die betreffenden Heimatgemeinden gesandt werden. (Mönchberg wird diese Anstalt genannt, weil sie bis zur Säkularisation 1803 ein Franziskaner-Kloster war.)

Oefter in der Woche kommen Autobusse mit einer größeren Anzahl solcher Opfer in Hadamar an. Schulkinder der Umgegend kennen diese Wagen und reden: "Da kommt wieder die Mordkiste." Nach der Ankunft solcher Wagen beobachten dann die Hadamarer Bürger den aus dem Schlot aufsteigenden Rauch und sind von dem ständigen Gedanken an die armen Opfer erschüttert, zumal wenn sie je nach der Windrichtung durch die widerlichen Dünste belästigt werden.

Der Bischof von Limburg
Dr. Anton Hilfrich
13. August 1941

In response to complaints from German families about the killing of their feeble-minded relatives, Minister of Justice Franz Gürtner requested an authenticated copy of Hitler's 1939 order authorizing certain doctors to kill persons deemed incurably ill. Gürtner's handwritten note shows that he received this photostatic copy on August 27, 1940.

The Bishop of Limburg protested to the Minister of Justice the killing of inmates at Hadamar asylum because Nazi doctrine deemed them "valueless lives." Bishop Hilfrich complained that even children at play chattered knowingly about the smokey chimney and sickly smell and that implausible death certificates had been received by many families of Hadamar inmates. Public protest caused Hitler to suspend domestic euthanasia of insane and feeble-minded Germans, but the execution technology and personnel were transferred to death camps for Jews and Gypsies in Poland and eastern Europe.

Executive order signed by Adolf Hitler, September 1, 1939. Photostat, 1940. RG 238, Nürnberg Document 630 PS, Exhibit USA 342.

Letter, Dr. Anton Hilfrich, Bishop of Limburg, to Franz Gürtner, August 31, 1941 (first page only). RG 238, Nürnberg Document 615 PS, Exhibit USA 717.

This invoice of the *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Schädlingbekämpfung* — DEGESCH — (German Association for Pest Control) records the shipment of 390 canisters of Zyklon B cyanide gas to be used for “disinfection and extermination” at the Auschwitz concentration camp. Originally developed and used as an odorous insecticide and pesticide, Zyklon B cyanide gas was employed in an odorless form in the execution chambers in Auschwitz and probably Maidanek. The invoice states that labels on the 390 canisters bear the notice: “*Vorsicht, ohne Warnstoff*” (Beware, no warning odor). The warning label was intended for the protection of the SS executioners who handled the cans.

1553-PS
21

DEGESCH neue Anschrift:
DEUTSCHE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR
SCHÄDLINGSBEKÄMPFUNG M.B.H.
FRANKFURT/M. Friedberg/Hessen
Kaiserstr. 70, Postfach 68

WEISSFRAUENSTR. 9 / FERNSPRECHER: ORTSRUF 20121 / FERNRUF: 20546 / NACHTRUF: 24141 / DRAHTWORT: DEGESCH
POSTANSCHRIFT: DEGESCH FRANKFURT/M., SCHLIESMACH 248 POSTSCHEK 4874 FRANKFURT/M. TELEGRAMME: ALLE CODES

Herrn Obersturmführer
Kurt Gerstein
(1) Berlin
Leipzigerstrasse 31/32

RECHNUNG
No.
Frankfurt a. M., den 31. Mai 1944

D. G. S.	Einzelpreis	Reichsmark
Wir sandten am 31. Mai ab Dessau mit einem Wehrmachtfrachtbrief der Heeres-Standortverwaltung Dessau an das Konzentrationslager Auschwitz, Abteilung Entwesung und Seuchenabwehr, Station: A u s c h w i t z als Frachtgut folgende Sendung: <u>Z Y K L O N B</u> Blausäure ohne Reizstoff		
50185/97 = 13 Kisten, enthaltend je 30 = 390 Büchsen à 500 g = 195,- kg	5.--	975.--
Brutto: 832,00 kg Tara: 276,25 " Netto: 555,75 "		
Die Etiketten tragen den Vermerk: " Vorsicht, ohne Warnstoff "		
49374		

This canister, taken from stock and used as an exhibit in the Nürnberg I.G. Farben trial, is similar to those used to kill Jews, Gypsies, and other people in the Auschwitz-Birkenau gas chambers.



Invoice, DEGESCH to SS First Lt. Kurt Gerstein, May 31, 1941. RG 238, Nürnberg Document 1553 PS, Exhibit RF 350.

Depleted 1-kilo metal canister of Zyklon B gas. RG 238, *United States v. Carl Krauch et al.*, Exhibit DEGESCH 48.

Geheime Reichssache!

An

W-Obersturmbannführer Ruff

in Berlin

Prinz-Albrecht-Str. 8

Handwritten: Ruff, Bader m.R., bfr.

Handwritten: Bader m.R., bfr.

Die Überholung der Wagen bei der Gruppe D und C ist beendet. Während die Wagen der ersten Serie auch bei nicht allzu schlechter Wetterlage eingesetzt werden können, liegen die Wagen der zweiten Serie (Saurer) bei Regenwetter vollkommen fest. Wenn es z.B. nur eine halbe Stunde geregnet hat, kann der Wagen nicht eingesetzt werden, weil er glatt wegrutscht. Benutzbar ist er nur bei ganz trockenem Wetter. Es tritt nur die Frage auf, ob man den Wagen nur am Orte der Exekution im Stand benutzen kann. Erstens muss der Wagen an diesen Ort gebracht werden, was nur bei guter Wetterlage möglich ist. Der Ort der Exekution befindet sich aber meistens 10 - 15 km abseits der Verkehrswege und ist durch seine Lage schon schwer zugänglich, bei feuchtem oder nassem Wetter überhaupt nicht. Führt oder führt man die zu Exekutierenden an diesen Ort, so merken sie sofort was los ist und werden unruhig, was nach Möglichkeit vermieden werden soll. Es bleibt nur der eine Weg übrig, sie am Sammelorte einzuladen und dann hinauszufahren.

Die Wagen der Gruppe D habe ich als Wohnwagen tarnen lassen, indem ich an den kleinen Wagen auf jeder Seite einen, an den grossen Wagen auf jeder Seite zwei Fensterlässe anbringen liess, wie man sie oft an den Bauernhäusern auf dem Lande sieht. Die Wagen waren so bekannt geworden, dass nicht nur die Behörden, sondern auch die Zivilbevölkerung den Wagen als "Todeswagen" bezeichneten, sobald eines dieser Fahrzeuge auftauchte. Nach meiner Meinung kann er auch getarnt nicht auf die Dauer verheimlicht werden.

Der Saurerwagen, den ich von Simferopol nach Taganrog überführte, hatte untere s. Treppenschaden. Beim S.F. in Mariupol wurde festgestellt, dass die Panache der kombinierte Öl-Luftdruckbremse an mehreren Stellen gebrochen war. Durch Überredung und Bestechung beim U.K.P. gelang es eine Form drehen zu lassen, nach der zwei Panachen gegossen wurden. Als ich ei-

Befugung:

11732

1. d. 339 1429.7
1. d. Juni 1942

A 35002

One of a series of communications on the many problems with S-Wagons, or special vehicles used as mobile gas chambers, this report states: "I disguised the wagons as house trailers by painting . . . windows like those often seen on farmhouses in the countryside." Nevertheless, civilians still called them "deathwagons."

Vertrag

Anfertigungen
16. Ausfertigung

16-1516

Besprechungsprotokoll.

I. An der am 20.1.1942 in Berlin, Am Großen Wannsee Nr. 56/58, stattgefundenen Besprechung über die Endlösung der Judenfrage nahmen teil:

Gauleiter Dr. Meyer und Reichsamtseiter Dr. Leibbrandt	Reichsministerium für die besetzten Ostgebiete
Staatssekretär Dr. Stuckart	Reichsministerium des Innern
Staatssekretär Neumann	Beauftragter für den Vierjahresplan
Staatssekretär Dr. Preisler	Reichsjustizmini- sterium
Staatssekretär Dr. Bühler	Amt des General- gouverneurs
Unterstaatssekretär Luther	Answärtiges Amt
4-Oberführer Klopfer	Partei-Kanzlei
Ministerialdirektor Kritzing	Reichskanzlei

4. I. 29 9. 42.

At an interagency meeting chaired by Reinhard Heydrich, officials of several Nazi government agencies and representatives of the SS and police formalized the "final solution of the Jewish question," already in full operation since the German invasion of the Soviet Union in late June 1941. The Berlin-Wannsee meeting, summarized in the minutes shown here, inaugurated a systematic plan for the extermination of all Jews in the areas controlled by the Third Reich and its satellites. Among those participating in the meeting was Adolf Eichmann.

Minutes of an interagency meeting at Berlin, Am Grossen Wannsee 56/58, January 20, 1942. RG 238, Nürnberg Document NG 2586; RG 242, Microfilm Publication T120, roll 780.

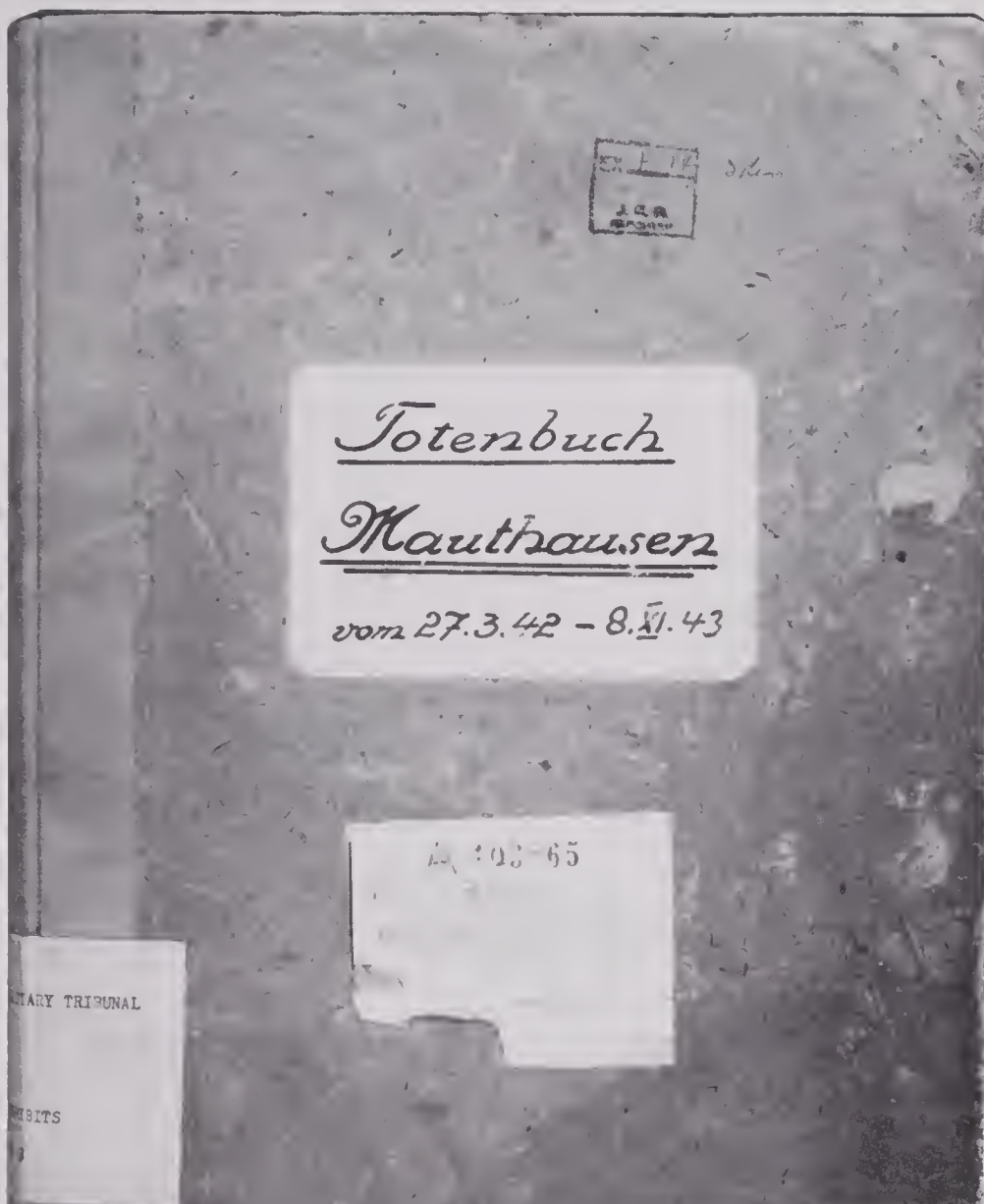
- 2 -

NG-2586

4-Gruppenführer Hofmann	Rasse- und Siedlungshauptamt
4-Gruppenführer Müller	Reichssicherheitshauptamt
4-Obersturmbannführer Eichmann	
4-Oberführer Dr. Schöngarth	Sicherheitspolizei und SD
Befehlshaber der Sicherheitspolizei und des SD im Generalgouvernement	
4-Sturmabführer Dr. Lange	Sicherheitspolizei und SD
Kommandeur der Sicherheitspolizei und des SD für den Generalbezirk Lettland, als Vertreter des Befehlshabers der Sicherheitspolizei und des SD für das Reichskommissariat Ostland.	

II. Chef der Sicherheitspolizei und des SD, 4-Obergruppenführer H e y d r i c h , teilte eingangs seine Bestellung zum Beauftragten für die Vorbereitung der Endlösung der europäischen Judenfrage durch den Reichsmarschall mit und wies darauf hin, daß zu dieser Besprechung geladen wurde, um Klarheit in grundsätzlichen Fragen zu schaffen. Der Wunsch des Reichsmarschalls, ihm einen Entwurf über die organisatorischen, sachlichen und materiellen Belange im Hinblick auf die Endlösung der europäischen Judenfrage zu übersenden, erfordert die vorherige gemeinsame Behandlung aller an diesen Fragen unmittelbar beteiligten Zentralinstanzen im Hinblick auf die Parallelisierung der Linienführung.

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Shown here is one of seven death-books from the concentration camp at Mauthausen. It lists chronologically, by inmate name and number, 35,227 deaths between January 7, 1939, and April 29, 1945. This page shows the national or ethnic origin, name, birth-date, birthplace, and cause and time of death of 32 people — Russian, Polish, Czech, and German Christians as well as Jews. Among the various causes of death are listed "angina," "heart attack," "kidney insufficiency," "extreme intestinal catarrh," "suicide by hanging," "suicide from effect of high-tension electricity," and "shot while attempting to escape."

Lfd. No.	Nat.	geb.	Nachname	Vorname	geb.	geb.	Todesursache	Tages-Nummer des Todes
2256	Polen	1879	Tomasz	Stefan	27.1.17	Polen	Angina	6.12.
2257	Polen	1879	Tomasz	Stefan	27.1.17	Polen	Angina	6.12.
2258	Polen	1879	Tomasz	Stefan	27.1.17	Polen	Angina	6.12.
2259	Polen	1879	Tomasz	Stefan	27.1.17	Polen	Angina	6.12.
2260	Polen	1879	Tomasz	Stefan	27.1.17	Polen	Angina	6.12.
2261	Polen	1879	Tomasz	Stefan	27.1.17	Polen	Angina	6.12.
2262	Polen	1879	Tomasz	Stefan	27.1.17	Polen	Angina	6.12.
2263	Polen	1879	Tomasz	Stefan	27.1.17	Polen	Angina	6.12.
2264	Polen	1879	Tomasz	Stefan	27.1.17	Polen	Angina	6.12.
2265	Polen	1879	Tomasz	Stefan	27.1.17	Polen	Angina	6.12.
2266	Polen	1879	Tomasz	Stefan	27.1.17	Polen	Angina	6.12.
2267	Polen	1879	Tomasz	Stefan	27.1.17	Polen	Angina	6.12.
2268	Polen	1879	Tomasz	Stefan	27.1.17	Polen	Angina	6.12.
2269	Polen	1879	Tomasz	Stefan	27.1.17	Polen	Angina	6.12.
2270	Polen	1879	Tomasz	Stefan	27.1.17	Polen	Angina	6.12.
2271	Polen	1879	Tomasz	Stefan	27.1.17	Polen	Angina	6.12.
2272	Polen	1879	Tomasz	Stefan	27.1.17	Polen	Angina	6.12.
2273	Polen	1879	Tomasz	Stefan	27.1.17	Polen	Angina	6.12.
2274	Polen	1879	Tomasz	Stefan	27.1.17	Polen	Angina	6.12.
2275	Polen	1879	Tomasz	Stefan	27.1.17	Polen	Angina	6.12.
2276	Polen	1879	Tomasz	Stefan	27.1.17	Polen	Angina	6.12.
2277	Polen	1879	Tomasz	Stefan	27.1.17	Polen	Angina	6.12.
2278	Polen	1879	Tomasz	Stefan	27.1.17	Polen	Angina	6.12.
2279	Polen	1879	Tomasz	Stefan	27.1.17	Polen	Angina	6.12.
2280	Polen	1879	Tomasz	Stefan	27.1.17	Polen	Angina	6.12.
2281	Polen	1879	Tomasz	Stefan	27.1.17	Polen	Angina	6.12.
2282	Polen	1879	Tomasz	Stefan	27.1.17	Polen	Angina	6.12.
2283	Polen	1879	Tomasz	Stefan	27.1.17	Polen	Angina	6.12.
2284	Polen	1879	Tomasz	Stefan	27.1.17	Polen	Angina	6.12.
2285	Polen	1879	Tomasz	Stefan	27.1.17	Polen	Angina	6.12.
2286	Polen	1879	Tomasz	Stefan	27.1.17	Polen	Angina	6.12.
2287	Polen	1879	Tomasz	Stefan	27.1.17	Polen	Angina	6.12.

230	K.G.F.	Name	Vorname	Geburts-		Todesursache	Tages- und Stunden- Todes	231
				Datum	Ort			
3307	125435	Lehman	Levi	25.9.15.	Worms	Verurteilung durch das Kriegsgericht am 9.5.42. EATC-D, Nr. 2501 3429, Liste 1	9.5.42. 23.35	Mit 1681 justifiziert
3302	124507	Lehman	Levi	14.3.18.	Nikolai	"	9.5.42. 23.35	Mit 1682
3303	124505	Milchik	Nikolai	7.12.04.	Nikolai	"	9.5.42. 23.35	Mit 1683
3304	125444	Romanenko	Leonid	23.7.25.	Moskau	"	9.5.42. 23.35	Mit 1684
3305	123850	Roman	Leonid	21.8.48.	Wladimir	"	9.5.42. 23.35	Mit 1685
3306	125437	Ros	Leonid	25.12.14.	Moskau	"	9.5.42. 23.35	Mit 1686
3307	123640	Ros	Leonid	21.1.07.	Moskau	"	9.5.42. 23.35	Mit 1687
3308	123743	Ros	Leonid	10.5.04.	Moskau	"	9.5.42. 23.35	Mit 1688
3309	125447	Ros	Leonid	29.10.18.	Moskau	"	9.5.42. 23.35	Mit 1689
3310	123721	Ros	Leonid	10.3.13.	Moskau	"	9.5.42. 23.35	Mit 1690
3311	129024	Ros	Leonid	22.2.09.	Moskau	"	9.5.42. 23.35	Mit 1691
3312	125440	Ros	Leonid	25.9.10.	Moskau	"	9.5.42. 23.35	Mit 1692
3313	120777	Ros	Leonid	14.10.04.	Moskau	"	9.5.42. 23.35	Mit 1693
3314	124508	Ros	Leonid	25.5.18.	Moskau	"	9.5.42. 23.35	Mit 1694
3315	123706	Ros	Leonid	21.1.10.	Moskau	"	9.5.42. 23.35	Mit 1695
3316	125639	Ros	Leonid	10.5.07.	Moskau	"	9.5.42. 23.35	Mit 1696
3317	134502	Ros	Leonid	5.8.06.	Moskau	"	9.5.42. 23.35	Mit 1697
3318	125436	Ros	Leonid	10.4.15.	Moskau	"	9.5.42. 23.35	Mit 1698
3319	125448	Ros	Leonid	2.3.11.	Moskau	"	9.5.42. 23.35	Mit 1699
3320	123877	Ros	Leonid	6.11.12.	Moskau	"	9.5.42. 23.35	Mit 1700
3321	123038	Ros	Leonid	20.5.18.	Moskau	"	9.5.42. 23.35	Mit 1701 justifiziert
3322	127839	Ros	Leonid	4.3.10.	Moskau	Verurteilung durch das Kriegsgericht am 9.5.42. EATC-D, Nr. 2501/3429	9.5.42. 6.00	Mit 1702
3323	10758	Ros	Leonid	10.9.1910	Moskau	"	9.5.42. 7.00	Mit 1703
3324	34792	Ros	Leonid	7.1.18.	Moskau	"	9.5.42. 6.00	Mit 1704
1	124109	Ros	Leonid	25.1.17.	Moskau	"	10.5.42. 0.15	justifiziert
2	124384	Ros	Leonid	20.10.13.	Moskau	"	10.5.42. 0.15	"
3	125075	Ros	Leonid	1.5.11.	Moskau	"	10.5.42. 0.15	"
4	125076	Ros	Leonid	26.2.15.	Moskau	"	10.5.42. 0.15	"
5	124515	Ros	Leonid	15.7.13.	Moskau	"	10.5.42. 0.15	"
6	124406	Ros	Leonid	15.6.12.	Moskau	"	10.5.42. 0.15	"
7	124510	Ros	Leonid	5.5.09.	Moskau	"	10.5.42. 0.15	"
8	124063	Ros	Leonid	11.1.11.	Moskau	"	10.5.42. 0.15	"
9	125035	Ros	Leonid	17.7.03	Moskau	"	10.5.42. 0.15	"

A separate Prisoner of War Deathbook for the Mauthausen-Gusen concentration camp lists 5,695 numbered deaths and several hundred unnumbered deaths. The pages shown list 21 of 25 Russian POWs with M(au-thausen) inmate numbers as being executed simultaneously at 23.35 (11:35 p.m.) on May 9, 1942. At the bottom of the page are the first 9 of 208 Soviet POWs bearing Jewish names who were assigned entry numbers but were not in camp long enough to be assigned inmate numbers; all were executed simultaneously at 0.15 (12:15 a.m.) on May 10, 1942. The cause of death is listed as *justifiziert* (justified) by a wireless order from Heydrich's Reich Security Central Office.

"[All Soviet prisoners are to be screened for] elements undesirable for political, criminal, or other reasons . . . functionaries of the Comintern . . . Peoples Commissars and their deputies . . . former political commissars of the Red Army [and] . . . all Jews . . . the commandos are to demand from the camp command the surrender of the specified prisoners . . . Executions are not to be held in the camp or in the immediate vicinity."

Order by Reinhard Heydrich, July 17, 1941 (Regulations for the Commandos of the Security Police and Service to be detailed to Stalags), sanctioned by a signed agreement with the German Armed Forces High Command, consequent to Hitler's presumably oral "Commissar Order" of spring 1941.

Totenbuch KGF (Prisoner of War Deathbook)
Mauthausen-Gusen concentration camp, October 1941
and March 30, 1945 (pages 234–235 shown). RG 238,
Nürnberg Document 495, Exhibit USA 250.

Der Chef der Sicherheitspolizei
und des SD

Berlin, den 7. Okt. 1941.

4 B.Nr. IV A 1 - 1 B/41 - gRs -

48 Ausfertigungen.

36. Ausfertigung.

Ereignismeldung UdSSR Nr. 106.

I. Politische Übersicht.

Ausland:

Kroatien:

Das Einsatzkommando der Sicherheitspolizei und des SD-Agram - meldet:

Am 30.9. wurden von 3 Zivilisten 3 deutsche Flieger aus dem Hinterhalt beschossen. Ein Flieger war sofort tot, der andere starb im Laufe der Nacht und der dritte liegt mit schwerem Lungensteckschuss im Krankenhaus.

Es handelt sich um einen kommunistischen Anschlag. Im Zuge der Ermittlungsaktion wurden bisher 17 Personen festgenommen.

II. Meldungen der Einsatzgruppen und -kommandos.

Von der Einsatzgruppe A liegen keine Meldungen vor.

One of a series of 250 periodic reports on the activities of the *Einsatzgruppen* (SS and police mobile commando units) in German-occupied Russia and eastern Europe from June 1941 until May 1943. Most of these reports included figures that showed how many hundreds of thousands of Jews were executed. This document records the mass shooting on September 29 and 30, 1941, of precisely 33,771 Jews at Babi Yar, a ravine near the city of Kiev in Ukraine.

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ordentlich gross. Hinzu kommt, dass Juden sich nachweislich an der Brandlegung beteiligt hatten. Die Bevölkerung erwartete deshalb von den deutschen Behörden entsprechende Vergeltungsmassnahmen. Aus diesem Grunde wurden in Vereinbarung mit den Stadtkommandanten sämtliche Juden Kiews aufgefordert, sich am Montag, den 29.9. bis 8.00 Uhr an einem bestimmten Platz einzufinden. Diese Aufrufe wurden durch die Angehörigen der aufgestellten ukrainischen Miliz in der ganzen Stadt angeblasen. Gleichzeitig wurde mündlich bekanntgegeben, dass sämtliche Juden Kiews umgewiedelt werden. In Zusammenarbeit mit dem Gruppenstab und 2 Kommandos der Polizei-Regiment S u d hat das Sonderkommando 4a am 29. und 30.9. 33 771 Juden exekutiert. Geld, Wertsachen, Taschenund Kleidungsstücke wurden sichergestellt und zum Teil der NSV zur Auswertung der Volkdeutschen Aktion selbst an bedürftige Bevölkerung übergeben. Die Zwischenfälle haben sich nicht ergeben. Die Juden durchgeführte Umsiedlungsaktion ist durchaus die Vustimmung der Bevölkerung. Es ist bisher kaum bekannt worden, wer auch nach den bisherrigen Maßnahmen die durchgeführten Massnahmen ebenfalls verschulden. Die noch nicht erfassten, bzw. noch nicht in die Stadt zurückgeführten Geflüchteten werden von Teil z. Teil entsprechend behandelt. Gleichzeitig konnten eine Reihe NSD-Glieder, politische Dozenten und Antisemitiker erlass

Report, *Ereignismeldungen UdSSR Nr. 106* (Reports on Events in the U.S.S.R., No. 106), October 7, 1941. RG 238, Nürnberg Document NO 314.

SS Capt. Dr. Sigmund Rascher, on duty as a Luftwaffe medical officer, reported on high-altitude experiments he performed at the Dachau concentration camp. Included in the report are 41 photographs, one of which shows a *Versuchsperson* (experiment person) during "an extended experiment without oxygen at 12 kilometers altitude." The subject died. Himmler noted in green pencil: "*sehr interessant*" (very interesting).



Dr. med. Sigmund Rascher

München, den 5. April 1942.

Hochverehrter Reichsführer!

Anliegend folgt ein Zwischenbericht über die bisher angestellten Unterdruckkammerversuche im KL Dachau. Darf ich gehorsamst bitten, den Bericht geheim zu behandeln.

Vor einigen Tagen sah sich der Reichsarzt-SS, Professor Dr. Grawitz die Versuchsordnung kurz an. Da er zeitlich sehr knapp war konnten ihm keinerlei Versuche vorgeführt werden. SS-Obersturmbannführer Sievers nahm sich einen Tag Zeit um einige der interessanten Standardversuche anzusehen und wird vielleicht schon kurz darüber berichtet haben. Ich glaube, hochverehrter Reichsführer, es würden Sie diese Versuche außerordentlich interessieren! Ist es nicht möglich, daß Sie sich anlässlich einer Reise nach Süddeutschland einige Versuche vorführen lassen? Wenn sich die bisherigen Versuchsergebnisse auch weiterhin bestätigen, so ergeben sich für die Wissenschaft vollkommen neue Resultate, ebenso werden für die Luftfahrt restlos neue Gesichtspunkte geschaffen.

Ich hoffe, daß mir die Luftwaffe dank der geplanten Bemühungen von SS-Obersturmbannführer Sievers weiterhin keine Schwierigkeiten in den Weg legen wird. SS-Obersturmbannführer Sievers bin ich zu großem Dank verpflichtet, da er in jeder Beziehung sehr tätiges Interesse für meine Arbeit zeigt.

Ich danke Ihnen, hochverehrter Reichsführer gehorsamst für die großzügige Verwirklichung meines Vorschlages, Versuche dieser Art im KL auszuführen.

Mit den ergebensten Wünschen für Ihr Wohlergehen bin ich mit

Heil Hitler!

S. Rascher

Erster Zwischenbericht über die Unterdruckkammerversuche im KL Dachau.

1. Es gilt die Frage zu klären, ob die theoretisch ermittelten Werte über die Lebensdauer des Menschen in Sauerstoff-arter Luft und niedrigem Druck mit den im praktischen Versuch gewonnenen Resultaten übereinstimmen. Es besteht die Behauptung, daß ein Fallschirmspringer bei Absprung aus 12 km Höhe durch den Sauerstoffmangel schwerste Schädigungen, wahrscheinlicherweise sogar den Tod erleide. Praktische Versuche über dieses Thema wurden stets nach maximal 53 Sekunden abgebrochen, da schwerste Höhenkrankheit auftritt, bzw. auftrat.

2. Versuche über die Lebensdauer eines Menschen oberhalb der normalen Atemgrenze (4,5 - 6 km) wurden überhaupt nicht angestellt, da mit Sicherheit feststand, daß die Versuchsperson (Vp) den Tod erleiden müßte.

Die von mir und Dr. Romberg angestellten Versuche zeigten zu

1. Der Sauerstoffmangel bzw. der niedere atmosphärische Druck haben im Fallschirmsinkversuch weder aus 12 km noch aus 13 km Höhe tödlich gewirkt. Es wurden insgesamt 15 Extremversuche dieser Art angestellt, wobei keine der Vp den Tod erlitt. Es trat schwerste Höhenkrankheit mit Bewusstlosigkeit auf, jedoch etete völlige Aktionsfähigkeit, wenn etwa 7 km Höhe im Abstieg erreicht war. Die hierbei ausgeführten Elektrokardiogramme zeigten wohl während des Versuches gewisse Unregelmäßigkeiten, jedoch bis Versuchsende waren die Kurven zur Norm zurückgekehrt und zeigten auch an den darauffolgenden Tagen keinerlei krankhafte Veränderungen an. In wieviel eine Abnutzung des Organismus durch sich immer wiederholende Versuche eintritt, läßt sich erst am Schluß der Versuchsreihen feststellen. Die extremen, tödlichen Versuche werden an besondere zugeteilten Vp vorgenommen, da sonst eine derartige Kontrolle, welche für die Praxis außerordentliche Wichtigkeit besitzt, nicht möglich wäre.

Letter and report, Dr. Sigmund Rascher to Reichsführer-SS Heinrich Himmler, April 5, 1942 (second page of report only). RG 238, Case I, Medical Case, Prosecution Exhibit 49, Document 1971 (a) and Prosecution Exhibit 41, Nürnberg Document NO 610-14.



Die Banditen wehrten sich mit den Waffen.

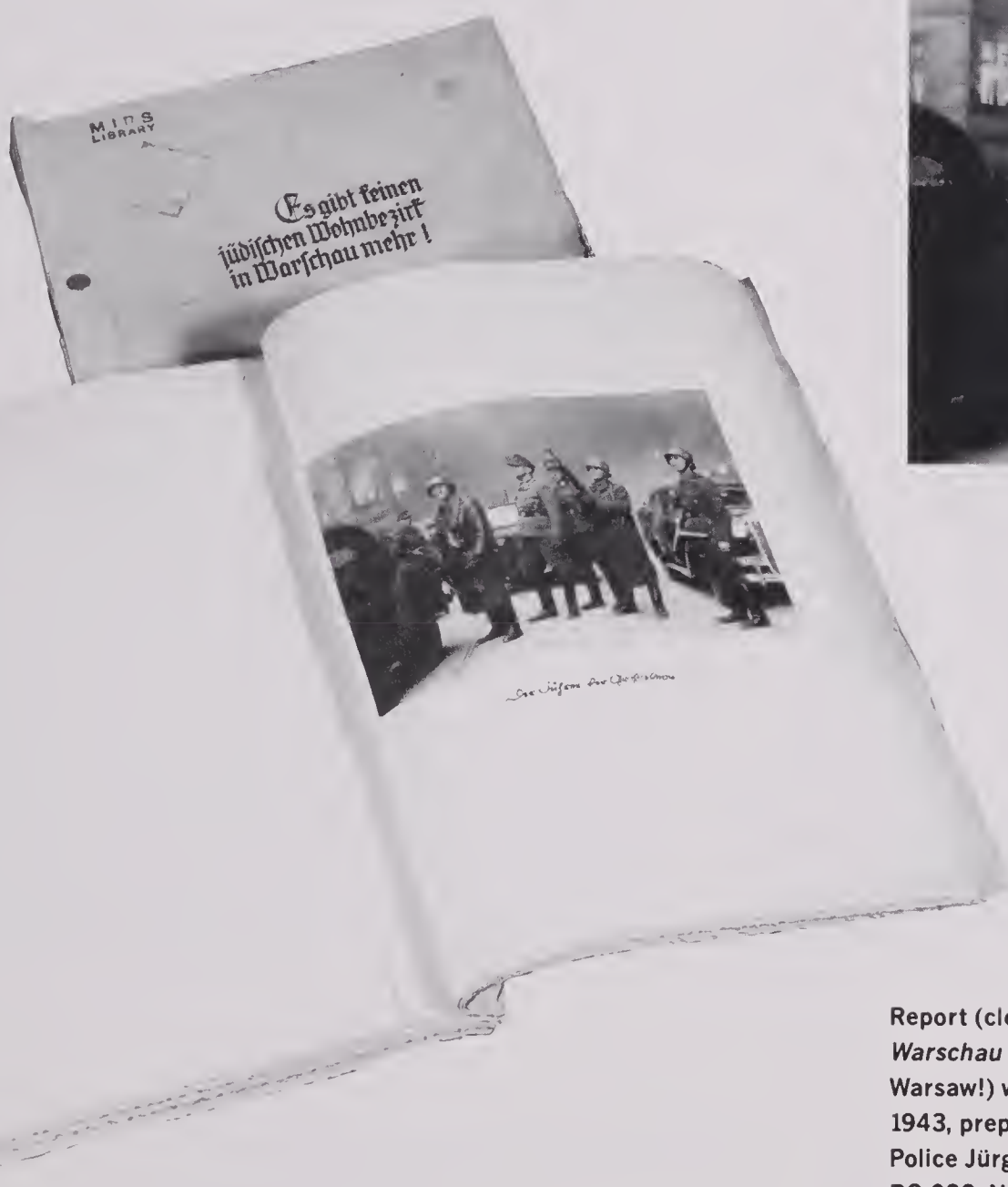
"These bandits defended themselves with weapons."

To justify his brutal suppression of the Jewish uprising in the Warsaw Ghetto, April 20 to May 15, 1943, the SS commander, Jürgen Stroop, added to copies of his daily battle reports a final report that included a list of casualties incurred by his troops plus some 50 hand-captioned photographs. Ironically, this report unintentionally provides the best contemporary documentation of heroic Jewish resistance against overwhelming odds.



Der Führer der Grossaktion

"The Commander of the Great Action"



Report (closed), "*Es gibt keinen jüdischen Wohnbezirk in Warschau mehr!*" (There is no longer a Jewish quarter in Warsaw!) with photographic appendix (open), May 16, 1943, prepared by SS Brigadier and Major General of the Police Jürgen Stroop, SS and Police Leader of Warsaw. RG 238, Nürnberg Document 1061 PS, Exhibit USA 275.

From early April 1944 until mid-January 1945, Allied photographic reconnaissance was regularly flown over the I. G. Farben complex at Auschwitz to prepare for bombing a synthetic fuel plant under construction. To ensure complete coverage, cameras were turned on well before arrival at the target and ran after the target was passed, resulting in many photographs that went unanalyzed. Neither Allied aircrews nor photoanalysts had the equipment, time, or mission to analyze anything but photographs of the target areas. In this case, by concentrating exclusively on the Farben plant, they missed photographs of the extermination camp, eight kilometers away.

Thirty-four years later, photoanalysts from the CIA's National Photographic Interpretation Center (NPIC), applying advanced technology unavailable during World War II, located aerial photographs that reveal extermination and other activities under way at concentration camp Auschwitz-Birkenau. They were able to identify details in these photographs only because they had access to postwar accounts and contemporary captured German records, which suggested precisely where and for what to look.

(Top left) This is a blowup from the August 25 photograph, enlarged, cropped, and captioned by NPIC analysts in 1978. The group described as "PRISONERS ON WAY TO GAS CHAMBERS" appears to be on its way from the railroad siding across the tracks to "GAS CHAMBER AND CREMATORIUM II," the gate of which is open. Dino Brugioni and Robert C. Poirier, "The Holocaust Revisited: A Retrospective Analysis of the Auschwitz-Birkenau Extermination Camp Complex" (1978), photograph 6, page 11.



(Top right) On August 25, 1944, this original photograph was also taken by an aircraft of the South African 60th PR Squadron. RG 373, Can F5637, frame 3185; Mission: 60PR/694 60 Sq; Scale: 1/10,000; Focal Length: 36"; Altitude: 30,000'.

(Bottom) This aerial photograph was taken on June 26, 1944, by the 60th (South African) Photo Reconnaissance (PR) Squadron based in Bari, Italy. It shows the layout of all three parts of the Auschwitz concentration camp complex: The Main Camp I, Birkenau Camp II, and the I. G. Farben Buna plant at Monowitz Camp III. RG 373, Records of the Defense Intelligence Agency, Can C1172, frame 5022; Mission: 60PR/522, 60 Sq; Scale: 1/60,000; Focal Length: 6"; Altitude: 30,000'.

DIE ENDLÖSUNG DER EUROPÄISCHEN JUDENFRAGE

Statistischer Bericht

Inhalt:

- I. Vorbemerkung
- II. Die Judenbilanz in Deutschland
- III. Jüdische Volksschwäche
- IV. Die Auswanderung der Juden aus Deutschland
- V. Die Evakuierung der Juden
- VI. Die Juden in den Ghettos
- VII. Die Juden in den Konzentrationslagern
- VIII. Juden in Justizvollzugsanstalten
- IX. Der Arbeitseinsatz der Juden
- X. Europäische Judenbilanz

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V. DIE EVAKUIERUNG DER JUDEN

Die Evakuierung der Juden wurde, wenigstens im Reichsgebiet, die Auswanderung der Juden ab. Sie wurde seit dem Verbot der jüdischen Auswanderung ab Herbst 1941 in großen Stille vorbereitet und im Jahre 1942 im gesamten Reichsgebiet weitgehend durchgeführt. In der Bilanz des Judentums erscheint sie als "Abwanderung".
Die 1.1.1943 wanderten nach den Zusammenstellungen des Reichssicherheitshauptamtes ab:

aus dem Altreich mit Sudetenland	100 516 Juden
aus der Ostmark	47 555 "
aus dem Protektorat	69 677 "
Zusammen	217 748 Juden

In diesen Zahlen sind auch die in der Altersghetto Theresienstadt evakuierten Juden enthalten.

Die gesamten Evakuierungen ergaben im Reichsgebiet einschl. Ostgebieten und darüber hinaus im deutschen Macht- und Einflußbereich in Europa von Oktober 1939 oder später bis zum 31.12.1942 folgende Zahlen:

1. Evakuierung von Juden aus Baden und der Pfalz nach Frankreich..... 6 504 Juden
2. Evakuierung von Juden aus dem Reichsgebiet einschl. Protektorat und Bezirk Bialystok nach Osten..... 170 642 "
3. Evakuierung von Juden aus dem Reichsgebiet und dem Protektorat nach Theresienstadt..... 87 193 "
4. Transportierung von Juden aus den Ostprovinzen nach dem russischen Osten: 1 449 692 "
 Es wurden durchgeschleust durch die Lager im Generalgouvernement..... 1 274 166 Juden
 durch die Lager in Serbien..... 145 301 "
5. Evakuierung von Juden aus anderen Ländern, nämlich:
 Frankreich (seit vor dem 10.11.1942 besetzt)..... 41 911 Juden
 Niederlande..... 38 571 "
 Belgien..... 16 886 "
 Sowjetunion..... 532 "

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Über. Auch der Wanderungsstrom der Juden aus den europäischen Ländern außerhalb des deutschen Einflusses ist eine weitgehend unbekannte Größe. Insgesamt dürfte das europäische Judentum seit 1933, also im ersten Jahrzehnt der nationalsozialistischen deutschen Machtergreifung, bald die Hälfte seines Bestandes verloren haben.

Items IV through X of this table of contents read:

- IV. Emigration of Jews from Germany
- V. Evacuation of Jews
- VI. Jews in Ghettos
- VII. Jews in Concentration Camps
- VIII. Jews in Prisons
- IX. Forced Labor of Jews
- X. Balance [Sheet] on European Jews

The last half-page of the report, shown here, says in part, "In sum, European Jewry since 1933, . . . will soon have lost half of its substance," through murder and immigration. Korherr had better access to the figures than anyone before or since, yet he, too, had to estimate the number of Jews killed. It is no surprise that unbiased postwar estimates range from 5 million to 6½ million dead, a discrepancy of staggering human cost, but of no moral difference.

Heinrich Himmler returned the report to Dr. Korherr for revision, instructing him to substitute "transportation of Jews to the Russian east," for the widely recognized phrase "special handling of Jews," so that the fact of murder was not explicitly stated. In reality, the report estimates how many Jews had been "transported" to their deaths and how many remained to be killed. Simple subtraction would tell the tale.

"Statistical Report, Final Solution of the Jewish Question in Europe," table of contents and pages 9 and 16 shown. Reported by Dr. Richard Korherr, Inspector for Statistics to Reichsführer-SS, March 27, 1943. RG 238, Nürnberg Document NO 5194.

"I hold this report, at best, as material for later times, to be sure quite good for camouflage purposes. At the moment, it may neither be published or circulated. Most

important to me, now as before, is that as many Jews as humanly possible be transported to the East. In the short monthly reports of the Security Police, I want merely to be informed what has been transported monthly, and what at that point in time still remains of Jews."

Himmler to Korherr, April 9, 1943. RG 238, Nürnberg Document NO 5197.

9

John von Büdingen

Arbitrarily taken

~~Yulstun~~

Wenn jetzt in der jetzt

F-1189131

On October 4, 1943, Reichsführer-SS and Chief of German Police Heinrich Himmler spoke to more than 100 SS leaders in a hotel lounge at *Poznan* (**Posen**), Poland, about recent SS prosecution of the war. His handwritten notes include only one reference to Jews: *Judenevakuierung* (**evacuation of Jews**). But on the large-type transcript from this recording — the words he actually spoke — he used the phrase *Ausrottung* (**extirpation**) of Jews and goes on to say “*Most of you will know what it means when 100 corpses . . . when 500 corpses or 1000 corpses are lying there. . . . This is a glorious page in our history, never written, and perhaps never to be written.*”

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hatten, an die Wand zu stellen und zu erschießen genau so wenig haben wir darüber jemals gesprochen und werden je darüber sprechen. Es war eine, Gottseidank in uns wohnende Selbstverständlichkeit des Taktes, dass wir uns untereinander nie darüber unterhalten haben, nie darüber sprachen. Es hat jeden geschauert und doch war sich jeder klar darüber, dass er es das nächste Mal wieder tun würde, wenn es befohlen wird und wenn es notwendig ist.

Ich meine jetzt die Judenevakuierung, die Ausrottung des jüdischen Volkes. Es gehört zu den Dingen, die man leicht ausspricht. - "Das jüdische Volk wird ausgerottet", sagt ein jeder Parteigenosse, "ganz klar, steht in unserem Programm, Ausschaltung der Juden, Ausrottung, machen wir." Und dann kommen sie alle an, die braven 80 Millionen Deutschen, und jeder hat seinen anständigen Juden. Es ist ja klar, die anderen sind Schweine, aber dieser eine ist ein prima Jude. Von allen, die so reden, hat keiner zugesehen, keiner hat es durchgestanden. Von Euch werden die meisten wissen, was es heißt, wenn 100 Leichen beisammen liegen, wenn 500 daliegen oder wenn 1000 daliegen. Dies durchgehalten zu haben, und dabei - abgesehen von Ausnahmen menschlicher Schwachen - anständig geblieben zu sein, das hat uns hart gemacht. Dies ist ein niemals geschriebenes und niemals

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Handwritten notes for and a typed transcript of a speech given by Heinrich Himmler on October 4, 1943.

RG 238, Nürnberg Document 1919 PS, Exhibit USA 170.

"The question arose for us: what about women and children? — I decided here, too, to find a clear-cut solution. I did not believe myself justified to root out the men — say also, to kill them, or to have them killed — and to allow avengers in the form of their children to grow up for our sons and grandsons [to confront]. The hard decision had to be made for this people to disappear from the earth."

Speech by Heinrich Himmler to Nazi Party Reich and Gau (Region) Leaders in Posen City Hall on October 6, 1943. RG 242, Microfilm Publication T175, Roll 85, frame 168, page 17 of 49 in speech transcript.



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Hiltler's dream of a thousand-year Reich failed. Himmler's "glorious" — but unknown — chapter of German history became widely known as soon as Allied soldiers entered the concentration camps in 1945. The Jewish people did not "disappear from the earth." Some inmates who walked out of those camps told and re-told their tales of horror. Other survivors — those who escaped before they were sent to concentration camps or those who heroically resisted — also told their tales. Authenticated by the Nazis' own paperwork, these survivors' stories help ensure that the world will never forget.

A measure of the loss is in the accomplishments of the living. What might those who died have contributed?

1. Young people on their way to Palestine, survivors of Buchenwald.
RG 111, Records of the Office of the Chief Signal Officer, 111-SC-207907
2. Nobel peace prize winner and novelist Elie Wiesel, survivor of Auschwitz and Buchenwald, with Benjamin Meed, businessman and president of the American Gathering, Federation of Jewish Holocaust Survivors. Meed is a survivor of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising of April 1943.
Courtesy of the American Gathering, Federation of Jewish Holocaust Survivors
3. Hungarian actress Nador Livia, survivor of Gusen.
RG 111, 111-SC-204810
4. Congressman Tom Lantos and his wife Annette escaped Hungary with the aid of Raoul Wallenberg, whose picture the Congressman holds in his hands.
Courtesy of Congressman Lantos
5. Physicist Edward Teller fled Hungary during the 1930s, when Nazi-instigated anti-Semitism was on the rise. Teller made important contributions to the development of the atomic and hydrogen bombs.
RG 111, 111-SC-490546

FOR FURTHER READING

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An exhibit of posters featuring captured German records from the National Archives documents Hitler's "final solution of the Jewish question"

HOLOCAUST: THE DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

The Nazis Themselves Bear Witness

The Nazi plan for genocide was classified "ultra-secret." But assembling and transporting Jews from all corners of Europe to extermination sites in occupied Poland was a complex operation and generated much coordinating paperwork among the SS and other Nazi agencies.

A large number of these records were captured by the Allies and used as evidence in war crimes trials held since 1945 at Nürnberg and elsewhere. The National Archives and Records Administration has preserved for posterity this authentic, contemporary documentation of the Holocaust.

For many viewers, the documentary evidence will prove as chilling as the most graphic photographs from the era. These records provide a larger framework for individual, incomprehensible events. In all, 21 original documents – including German-language texts, transcripts, and photographs – have been reproduced along with brief captions that explain the significance of each.

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During the 12 years of the Third Reich – between Nazi assumption of power in Germany on January 30, 1933, and unconditional surrender on V-E day, May 8, 1945 – the Jews of Germany and Nazi-occupied Europe were subjected to discrimination, loss of citizenship and property, exile, and near extermination. So that the world will never forget, Days of Remembrance are observed each spring in locations around the world.



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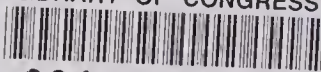


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